Case 3:07-cv-02846-SC

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Filed 06/21/2007

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Defendants Unum Group, Unum Life Insurance Company of America, First Unum Life Insurance Company of America and The Paul Revere Life Insurance Company ("defendants") answer the first amended complaint ("complaint") filed by plaintiff Alexander P. Sommer ("plaintiff") in this action as follows:

JURISDICTIONAL ALLEGATIONS

- Answering the allegations of paragraph 1 of the complaint, defendants admit that 1. the court has jurisdiction. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 1.
 - Answering the allegations of paragraph 2 of the complaint, defendants admit. 2.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 3 of the complaint, defendants admit that 3. UnumProvident changed its name to Unum Group, and that Unum Group is a citizen of the State of Delaware, incorporated in the State of Delaware and having its principal places of business in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Portland, Maine.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 4 of the complaint, defendants admit that 4. Unum Life Insurance Company of America is a citizen of the State of Maine, incorporated in the State of Maine and having its principal place of business in the Portland, Maine.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 5 of the complaint, defendants admit that 5. First Unum Life Insurance Company of America is a citizen of New York, incorporated in the State of New York and having its principal place of business in New York.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 6 of the complaint, defendants admit that 6. The Paul Revere Life Insurance Company is a citizen of Massachusetts, incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and having its principal place of business in Worcester, Massachusetts.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 7 of the complaint, defendants are without 7. knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations stated herein, and on this basis, deny the allegations set forth in this paragraph.
- 8. Answering the allegations of paragraph 8 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.

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- 9. Answering the allegations of paragraph 9 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.
- 10. Answering the allegations of paragraph 10 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.
- 11. Answering the allegations of paragraph 11 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.
- 12. Answering the allegations of paragraph 12 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.
- 13. Answering the allegations of paragraph 13 of the complaint, defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations stated herein, and on this basis, deny the allegations set forth in this paragraph.
- 14. Answering the allegations of paragraph 14 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.
- 15. Answering the allegations of paragraph 15 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 16. Answering the allegations of paragraph 16 of the complaint, defendants incorporate its response to paragraphs 1 through 15, above.
- 17. Answering the allegations of paragraph 17 of the complaint, defendants admit that plaintiff had been employed as an account executive with Henry H. Swift & Co. in 1988. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 17.
- 18. Answering the allegations of paragraph 18 of the complaint, defendants admit that plaintiff had been employed as an account executive in 1988. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 18.
- 19. Answering the allegations of paragraph 19 of the complaint, defendants admit that in 1988, plaintiff underwent three brain surgeries. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 19.

- 20. Answering the allegations of paragraph 20 of the complaint, defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations stated herein, and on this basis, deny the allegations set forth in this paragraph.
- 21. Answering the allegations of paragraph 21 of the complaint, defendants admit that in 1988, plaintiff underwent three brain surgeries. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 21.
- 22. Answering the allegations of paragraph 22 of the complaint, defendants admit that plaintiff continued to work as an account executive. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 22.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 23 of the complaint, defendants admit that plaintiff made previous claims for disability benefits, it was determined that he was not eligible for benefits, and the claims fell under ERISA, and plaintiff previously litigated the claims and lost each time. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph
- 24. Answering the allegations of paragraph 24 of the complaint, defendants admit that plaintiff previously filed multiple lawsuits against Unum Life and Paul Revere wherein he litigated his purported claims for disability benefits and defendants prevailed in those matters.

 Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 24.
- 25. Answering the allegations of paragraph 25 of the complaint, defendants admit that plaintiff previously filed multiple lawsuits against Unum Life and Paul Revere wherein he litigated his purported claims for disability benefits and defendants prevailed in those matters.

 Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 25.
- 26. Answering the allegations of paragraph 26 of the complaint, defendants admit that plaintiff previously filed multiple lawsuits against Unum Life and Paul Revere wherein he litigated his purported claims for disability benefits and defendants prevailed in those matters.

 Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 26.
- 27. Answering the allegations of paragraph 27 of the complaint, defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations stated herein, and on this basis, deny the allegations set forth in this paragraph.

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- Answering the allegations of paragraph 28 of the complaint, defendants are 28. without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations stated herein, and on this basis, deny the allegations set forth in this paragraph.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 29 of the complaint, defendants deny the 29. allegations.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 30 of the complaint, defendants admit that 30. the California Department of Insurance issued a Decision and Order of Insurance Commissioner Upon Settlement on approximately October 3, 2005, and that the Decision speaks for itself. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 30.
- 31. Answering the allegations of paragraph 31 of the complaint, defendants admit that the California Department of Insurance issued a Decision and Order of Insurance Commissioner Upon Settlement, and that the Decision speaks for itself. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 31.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 32 of the complaint, defendants admit that 32. Insurance Code Section 700 speaks for itself. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 32.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 33 of the complaint, defendants admit that 33. Insurance Code Section 704 speaks for itself. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 33.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 34 of the complaint, defendants deny the 34. allegations.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 35 of the complaint, defendants deny the 35. allegations.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 36 of the complaint, defendants admit that 36. the California Department of Insurance issued a Public Report and the Report speaks for itself. Except as so admitted, defendants deny the remaining allegations in paragraph 36.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 37 of the complaint, defendants deny the 37. allegations.

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(Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act)

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incorporate its response to paragraphs 1 through 37, above. 4

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39. Answering the allegations of paragraph 39 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.

40. Answering the allegations of paragraph 40 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Answering the allegations of paragraph 38 of the complaint, defendants

Answering the allegations of paragraph 41 of the complaint, defendants deny the 41. allegations.

Answering the allegations of paragraph 42 of the complaint, defendants deny the 42. allegations.

43. Answering the allegations of paragraph 43 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.

Answering the allegations of paragraph 44 of the complaint, defendants deny the 44. allegations.

Answering the allegations of paragraph 45 of the complaint, defendants deny the 45. allegations.

46. Answering the allegations of paragraph 46 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.

47. Answering the allegations of paragraph 47 of the complaint, defendants deny the allegations.

Answering the allegations of paragraph 48 of the complaint, defendants deny the 48. allegations.

Answering the allegations of paragraph 49 of the complaint, defendants deny the 49. allegations.

Answering the allegations of paragraph 50 of the complaint, defendants deny the 50. allegations.

Answering the allegations of paragraph 51 of the complaint, defendants deny the

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allegations.

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(Unfair Business Practices Under B&P Code Section 17200)

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52. Answering the allegations of paragraph 52 of the complaint, defendants incorporate its response to paragraphs 1 through 51, above.

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and the policies speak for themselves. Except as so admitted, defendant deny the remaining

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Answering the allegations of paragraph 53 of the complaint, defendants admit that plaintiff had been covered under certain employer-sponsored group disability insurance policies,

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

allegation in paragraph 53. Answering the allegations of paragraph 54 of the complaint, defendants deny the 54.

Answering the allegations of paragraph 55 of the complaint, defendants deny the 55. allegations.

Answering the allegations of paragraph 56 of the complaint, defendants deny the 56. allegations.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Indemnity)

- Answering the allegations of paragraph 57 of the complaint, defendants 57. incorporate its response to paragraphs 1 through 56, above.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 58 of the complaint, defendants admit that 58. plaintiff had been covered under certain employer-sponsored group disability insurance policies, and the policies speak for themselves. Except as so admitted, defendant deny the remaining allegation in paragraph 58.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 59 of the complaint, defendants deny the 59. allegations.
- Answering the allegations of paragraph 60 of the complaint, defendants deny the 60. allegations.

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g) Answering the allegations of paragraph 6 of the prayer for relief, defendants deny

- h) Answering the allegations of paragraph 7 of the prayer for relief, defendants deny the allegations.
- i) Answering the allegations of paragraph 8 of the prayer for relief, defendants deny the allegations.
- j) Answering the allegations of paragraph 9 of the prayer for relief, defendants deny the allegations.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

68. As a first affirmative defense, defendants allege that neither plaintiff's complaint nor any claim for relief therein state facts sufficient to constitute a claim for relief against defendants.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

69. As a second affirmative defense, defendants allege, on information and belief, that through plaintiff's conduct, to be determined by the court/jury as comparative or contributory fault, plaintiff has waived and relinquished, or is estopped to assert, every claim for relief asserted in his complaint.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

70. As a third affirmative defense, defendants allege, on information and belief, that any damages sustained by plaintiff by reason of the events alleged in his complaint were proximately caused or contributed to by plaintiff's conduct, to be determined by the court/jury.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

71. As a fourth affirmative defense, defendants allege, on information and belief, that plaintiff's damages and/or policy benefits, to be determined by the court/jury, are subject to reduction and/or elimination pursuant to offset and/or policy limitations.

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FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a fifth affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff has failed to satisfy 72. all conditions precedent to receipt of benefits under any policy.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a sixth affirmative defense, defendants allege, on information and belief, that 73. plaintiff, as to be determined by the court/jury, is barred and estopped by the equitable doctrine of unclean hands from seeking or obtaining any recovery against defendants by reason of his complaint.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a seventh affirmative defense, defendants deny that plaintiff has sustained any 74. injury or damage by any act or omission by defendants. However, if it is established that plaintiff suffered an injury or damage for which defendants are held liable, defendants allege that such injury or damage is to be determined by the court/jury as proximately caused or contributed to by the intervening negligence or wrongful acts of plaintiff, or others acting for or on his behalf and that those negligent and/or wrongful acts by plaintiff or others, eliminate and/or reduce any damages plaintiff can recover from defendants in this action.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As an eighth affirmative defense, defendants allege that any and all losses or 75. damages sustained by plaintiff, as a result of the occurrences alleged in the complaint, are to be determined by the court/jury as proximately caused in whole or in part by the negligence or fault of persons or entities other than defendants, and for whom defendants are not responsible. The negligence and fault of other persons or entities eliminates or reduces any damages plaintiff may recover from defendants in this action.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

76. As a ninth affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff, as to be determined by the court/jury, failed to exercise reasonable care and diligence to mitigate his damages, if he has any. As a consequence, plaintiff's claim should be barred, or alternatively, any damages awarded to plaintiff should be reduced in proportion to plaintiff's fault in failing to mitigate his damages.

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27 28 TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a tenth affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff's claims for relief, 77. as to be determined by the court/jury, are barred by the principle of unjust enrichment.

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As an eleventh affirmative defense, defendants allege that each and every act or 78. statement done or made by defendants, or by defendants' agents or employees, with reference to plaintiff, before and after plaintiff filed his original complaint, was privileged as a good faith assertion of defendants' legal and contractual rights.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a twelfth affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff has failed to 79. allege, and cannot prove, under the clear and convincing standard, the oppression, fraud, or malice required for an award of punitive damages pursuant to Civil Code section 3294.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a thirteenth affirmative defense, defendants allege that an award of punitive 80. damages would violate the due process clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the corresponding provisions of the Constitution of the State of California.

FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a fourteenth affirmative defense, defendants allege that any award of punitive 81. damages would violate the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and the corresponding provisions of the Constitution of the State of California.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a fifteenth affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff, by virtue of the 82. legal doctrines of waiver and laches, is estopped from pursuing some or all of the claims alleged against defendants.

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SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

83. As a sixteenth affirmative defense, defendants alleges that plaintiff is not entitled to punitive damages, attorneys' fees, or damages in the amount of future benefits pursuant to any of the claims for relief alleged in his complaint.

SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

84. As a seventeenth affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff's "indemnity" and/or purported contract damage claims, if any, are limited by the provisions of ERISA.

EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

85. As an eighteenth affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff's remedy for any alleged "indemnity" and/or breach of contract is preempted by ERISA.

NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

86. As a nineteenth affirmative defense, defendants assert that there has been no "racketeering activity." 18 U.S.C. Sections 1961(1), 1962(c).

TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

87. As a twentieth affirmative defense, defendants assert that there have been no predicate acts or pattern as required under RICO. 18 U.S.C. Sections 1961(5), 1962.

TWENTY FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

88. As a twenty-first affirmative defense, defendants assert that there is no existence of an enterprise. 18 U.S. C. Section 1961, et seq.; *Chang v. Chen*, 80 F.3d 1293, 1295 (9th Cir. 1996).

TWENTY SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

89. As a twenty-second affirmative defense, defendants assert that they did not owe a fiduciary duty to plaintiff.

TWENTY THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

90. As a twenty-third affirmative defense, defendants assert that plaintiff's claims are barred by res judicata.

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TWENTY FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a twenty-fourth affirmative defense, defendants assert that plaintiff's claims 91. are barred by collateral estoppel.

TWENTY FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a twenty-fifth affirmative defense, defendants allege that they acted in good 92. faith toward plaintiff in the sale, marketing, and handling of the policy and in every other aspect of their dealings with plaintiff.

TWENTY SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a twenty-sixth affirmative defense, defendants allege that some or all of the 93. claims for relief asserted by plaintiff are barred by the applicable statutes of limitations, including, but not limited to, California Code of Civil Procedure sections 335.1, 337, 338, 339, 340, and 343; Business and Professions Code §17208; and 18 U.S.C. Section 1964, et seq.

TWENTY SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a twenty-seventh affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff has not 94. shown that he has standing to allege a cause of action under Business and Professions Code Section 17200.

TWENTY EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a twenty-eighth affirmative defense, defendants allege that any claim for 95. restitution and attorneys fees under California Business and Professions Code §17200 ("B.P. 17200"), violates defendants' s constitutional right of due process under the Constitutions of the State of California and the United States because plaintiff seeks recovery of alleged profits that purportedly must be refunded to individuals who are not parties to this action and, therefore, are not bound by any judgment in this action. As a result, regardless of the outcome of this action, defendants still may be subject to an unlimited number of lawsuits from other members of the general public over the same alleged practices that are the subject of this matter.

TWENTY NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a twenty-ninth affirmative defense, defendants allege that each insured that 96. plaintiff purports to represent has, as a result of the insured's contractual relationship with

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plaintiff purports to represent, could have exercised their legal rights, did exercise their legal rights, or are barred by law from exercising their legal rights against defendants for any alleged unfair practices. Moreover, the availability to defendants' insureds of a legal remedy, including but not limited to contractual damages bars plaintiff in this action from obtaining relief in equity in the form of an injunction, restitution and/or disgorgement. THIRTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

defendants, an adequate remedy at law for any and all alleged unfair practices that are the subject

of the complaint. Plaintiff's claims for relief are barred to the extent that the insureds, that

As a thirtieth affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff's claim for relief 97. under B.P. 17200 should be dismissed because the California Department of Insurance has exclusive jurisdiction over the issues raised in this claim for relief.

THIRTY FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a thirty-first affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff's claim for 98. relief under B.P. 17200 should be dismissed, or in the alternative stayed, because the California Department of Insurance has primary jurisdiction over the issues raised in this cause of action.

THIRTY SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a thirty-second affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff's claim for 99. relief under B.P. 17200, on behalf of the citizens of the State of California, violates defendants' right to due process and equal protection under the United States and California Constitutions in that, among other things, plaintiff has failed to employ class action procedures in bringing this matter on behalf of the citizens of the State of California, has failed to specifically identify the other insureds and/or claims that are the subject of this action aside from plaintiff's, and seeks to compel defendant to litigate claims to which there can be no binding judgment and no finality.

THIRTY THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

As a thirty-third affirmative defense, defendants allege that this court does not 100. have jurisdiction over the alleged unfair business practices that are the subject of plaintiff's sixth cause of action. The alleged unfair business practices by defendants did not take place in California. This court does not have the jurisdiction or power to enjoin conduct undertaken

outside of California.

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THIRTY FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

101. As a thirty-fourth affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff's sixth cause of action, since it attempts to regulate alleged conduct by defendants allegedly taking place outside California, is barred in whole or in part by Art. I, section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

THIRTY FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

102. As a thirty-fifth affirmative defense, defendants allege that plaintiff is not entitled to any injunctive relief because he has not, and cannot, establish entitlement to equitable relief, including the threat of irreparable harm and a reasonable likelihood that the alleged wrongful conduct is repetitive.

THIRTY SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

103. As a thirty-sixth affirmative defense, defendants reserve their right to assert additional defenses based on information gathered in the course of additional investigation and discovery.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, defendants pray for judgment to in their favor as follows:

- 1. That plaintiff take nothing by reason of his complaint on file herein;
- 2. That defendants be awarded their costs and expenses incurred in this action;
- 3. That defendants be awarded their attorneys' fees incurred in this action; and
- 4. That defendants recover such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

KELLY, HERLIHY & KLEIN LLP

Dated: June 21, 2007 By_____/s/____

John T. Burnite

Attorneys for Defendants

UNUM GROUP, UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, FIRST UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANYOF AMERICA, and THE PAUL REVERE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

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PROOF OF SERVICE

Sommer v. UnumProvident, et al. Marin Superior Court, Case No. CIV 064927

I, ZHANNA KOPYLOV, declare:

I am employed in the City and County of San Francisco, State of California. My business address is 44 Montgomery Street, Suite 2500, San Francisco, California 94104. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the foregoing action.

On June 21, 2007, I served the attached ANSWER BY DEFENDANTS UNUM GROUP, UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, FIRST UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA AND THE PAUL REVERE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY TO FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT, on the interested parties in said action,

- X (by mail) by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope in a designated area for outgoing mail, addressed as set forth below. At Kelly, Herlihy & Klein LLP, mail placed in that designated area is given the correct amount of postage and is deposited that same day, in the ordinary course of business, in a United States mailbox in the City of San Francisco, California.
- ____ (by personal delivery) by having a true copy thereof personally delivered to the person listed below by a non-interested party employed by the law firm of Kelly, Herlihy & Klein LLP.
- (by Federal Express) by depositing a true copy thereof in a sealed packet for overnight delivery, with charges thereon fully prepaid, in a Federal Express collection box, at San Francisco, California, and addressed as set forth below.
- (by facsimile transmission as indicated below) by transmitting said document(s) from our office facsimile machine (415) 391-7808, to facsimile machine number(s) shown below. Following transmission, I received a "Transmission Report" from our fax machine indicating that the transmission had been transmitted without error.

Stephen W. Steelman, Esq. Law Office of Stephen W. Steelman 22 Battery Street, Suite 333 Attorney(s) for Plaintiff ALEXANDER SOMMER

San Francisco, CA 94111

Fax: (415) 593-3778

I declare under penalty of perjury and the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on June 21, 2007 at San Francisco, California.

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